

PRE

3. To throw to the bottom. A term of chymistry opposed to sublime.

Gold endures a vehement fire long without any change, and after it has been divided by corrosive liquors into invisible parts, yet may presently be precipitated, so as to appear again in its own form. *Grew's Cosmol.*

TO PRECIPITATE. *v. n.*

1. To fall headlong.
Hadst thou been aught but gossamer feathers,
So many fathom down precipitating,
Thoud'it shiver like an egg. *Shakesp. King Lear.*

2. To fall to the bottom as a sediment.
By strong water every metal will precipitate. *Bacon.*

3. To hasten without just preparation.
Neither did the rebels spoil the country, neither on the other side did their forces encrease, which might hasten him to precipitate and assail them. *Bacon.*

PRECIPITATE. *adj.* [from the verb.]

1. Steeply falling.
Barcephas saith, it was necessary this paradise should be set at such a height, because the four rivers, had they not fallen to precipitate, could not have had sufficient force to thrust themselves under the great ocean. *Raleigh.*

When the full stores their antient bounds didtain,
Precipitate the furious torrent flows;
In vain would speed avoid, or strength oppose. *Prior.*

2. Headlong; hastily; rashly.
The archbishop, too precipitate in pressing the reception of that which he thought a reformation, paid dearly for it. *Clarendon.*

3. Hasty; violent.

Mr. Gay died of a mortification of the bowels; it was the most precipitate case I ever knew, having cut him off in three days. *Pope to Swift.*

PRECIPITATE. *n. f.* A corrosive medicine made by precipitating mercury.

As the clear separated, I rubb'd the super-excrecence of flesh with the vitriol-stone, or sprinkled it with precipitate. *Wise's Surgery.*

PRECIPITATELY. *adv.* [from precipitate.]

1. Headlong; steeply down.

2. Hastily; in blind hurry.

It may happen to those who vent praise or censure too precipitately, as it did to an English poet, who celebrated a nobleman for erecting Dryden's monument, upon a promise which he forgot, till it was done by another. *Swift.*

Not to bold Arnall; with a weight of scull
Furious he sinks, precipitately dull. *Pope's Dunciad.*

PRECIPITATION. *n. f.* [precipitation, Fr. from precipitate.]

1. The act of throwing headlong.

Let them pile ten hills on the Tarpeian rock,
That the precipitation might down-drench
Below the beam of fight, yet will I still
Be thus to them. *Shakesp. Coriolanus.*

2. Violent motion downward.

That could never happen from any other cause than the hurry, precipitation and rapid motion of the water, returning at the end of the deluge, towards the sea. *Woodward.*

3. Tumultuous hurry; blind haste.

Here is none of the hurry and precipitation, none of the blustering and violence, which must have attended those supposititious changes. *Woodward's Nat. Hist.*

4. In chemistry, Sublimity: contrary to sublimation.

Separation is wrought by precipitation or sublimation; that is, a calling of the parts up or down, which is a kind of attraction. *Bacon.*

The precipitation of the vegetative matter, after the deluge, and the burying it in the strata underneath amongst the sand, was to retrench the luxury of the productions of the earth, which had been so ungratefully abused by its former inhabitants. *Woodward's Nat. Hist.*

PRECIPITOUS. *adj.* [precipites, Lat.]

1. Headlong; steep.

Monarchy, together with me, could not but be dashed in pieces by such a precipitous fall as they intended. *K. Charles.*

2. Hasty; sudden.

Though the attempts of some have been precipitous, and their enquiries so audacious as to have lost themselves in attempts above humanity, yet have the enquiries of most deflected by the way. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*

How precious the time is, how precipitous the occasion, how many things to be done in their just season, after once a ground is in order. *Evlyn's Calendar.*

3. Rash; heady.

Thus fram'd for ill, he loos'd our triple hold,
Advice unfate, precipitous and bold. *Dryden.*

PRECISE. *adj.* [precis, Fr. precisus, Lat.]

1. Exact; strict; nice; having strict and determinate limitations.

Means more durable to preserve the laws of God from oblivion and corruption grew in use, not without precise direction from God himself. *Hooker, b. i.*

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